

his has not been done, may be because of some bindings on the Government not known to me. The 9th August as a very important day in the history and it is better that you and the whole House have paid tributes to the martyrs of the Quit India Movement. Next year in 1992, it will complete its 50 years and we will celebrate its 85th anniversary.

I believe that the nation will celebrate the occasion in a great style, but as far as the deadlock is concerned, I think that the Government should take more initiatives to remove this deadlock. Being the historic day today i.e. 9th August, I appeal to my party colleagues not to press the issue further today. But at the same time, I express my party's inability to participate in the business of the House fixed for the day and we will not participate in the proceedings of the House today. With your kind permission, I would like to leave the House along with my party colleagues so that the business of the House may be conducted smoothly. I believe that your attempts to remove the deadlock will continue and the Government will handle the matter properly. On the historic occasion, I do not want the proceedings of the House to be disrupted and therefore, I would like to appeal to my party colleagues to boycott the proceedings of the House.

[English]

At this stage Shri Lal K. Advani and some other hon. Members left the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation] ३

SHRI RAM VILAS PASVAN (Roversa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a solution to the deadlock emerged at the meeting of the leaders of various parties, the leaders of B.J.P. had also attended the meeting. But now they are boycotting the proceedings of the day. It means that whatever was decided in the meeting of the leaders is likely to be reviewed again..... (Interruptions.....

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJI (Bolpur) : Sir, when we left your room, we came out on a definite basis, impression and understanding. Now it seems that my friends in the BJP have not accepted that, although we had a different impression. Therefore, we presume that there is no understanding any longer. The decision that was arrived at is not meant to be implemented by one of the main parties. I would like to know what is the Government's response to this.

AN HON. MEMBER : That has been nullified by BJP.

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Shri Arjun Singh) : Sir, I would like to say that the interpretation given by hon. Member Shri Chatterjee has to be correct because what has gone on in your Chamber, I would not like to mention it here, but the fact is that the situation has emerged, as the hon. Member has said, that whatever was decided at that point of time, no longer holds good. The efforts will continue, that is another thing.

11.15 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation] 6

Dredging of Tapi and Narmada Rivers

*367. **SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMI** : Will the Minister of **SURFACE TRANSPORT** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for dredging of Tapi and Narmada rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of the waterway between Bhadbhut and Bharuch in river Narmada at a cost of Rs. 4.93 crores was sanctioned in October, 1989 for implementation by the State Government. The scheme includes dredging the shallow areas of the waterway at a cost of Rs. 1.45 crores. The Gujarat Maritime Board had submitted consolidated proposals at an estimated cost of Rs. 91.42 crores including dredging of river Tapi, for development of inland water transport during 8th Five Year Plan. No decision has been taken on the proposal pending the finalisation of the VIII Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that Narmada and Tapi, the longest rivers in Gujarat, do not look like rivers due to heavy siltation in the rivers accumulated over the years. Big cities like Surat are situated on the banks of the rivers and the environment of these cities has been adversely affected due to siltation. In view of the adverse effect on the environment, I would like to know by whether the Government of India will take a decision to launch a desiltation programme at the earliest, if so, when the decision would be taken?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that Narmada and Tapi rivers are among the ten waterways which have been identified for declaration as National Waterways. But the National Transport Policy Committee has not declared them as National Waterway. It is the responsibility of the State.

But we have received a proposal from the State Government in September, 1989 for the development of the waterways between Bhadbhut and Bharuch in river Narmada. For this purpose a provision of Rs. 4.93 crores has been made from the Centrally sponsored scheme. But I am sorry to say that till date nothing has been done by the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is that the biggest industry has been set up and is being set up in Hazira near Surat while Surat is also a biggest industrial town. If the desilting of Narmada and Tapi rivers is undertaken, these rivers can conveniently be utilized for transportation purposes. Will the Government of India issue some specific instructions to the State Government for taking up desilting work in these rivers, so that these rivers can be utilized for water transport?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir we have two schemes—the Centrally sponsored scheme and State sponsored scheme. I would like to mention that the State Government should take this up as a Centrally sponsored scheme to which 50 per cent of the funds will be given by us. But till today, the State Government seems to be not very keen to get the work done.

6-16 Jute Corporation of India

*369. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplate to close down the Jute Corporation of India or to curtail its operations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to strengthen the operational machinery of the Jute Corporation of India and the details thereof; and

(d) the total quantity of raw jute procured during the current year, so far, Statewise?